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D 4415

D 4419

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE	
C. & S. B. REGISTRY	
N. D.	4413
D.	17-12 33

Extract from File D. 280.

January 17, 1933.

My dear Givens.

Many thanks for your letter of 14th, January
D. 4413 concerning Albert M. Gupta.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) J. Van den Berg.

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January

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CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Van den Berg,

With reference to your note of December 28, 1932,

Albert M. Surtill is an American subject described as a free-lance journalist. He arrived in Shanghai in 1924 and soon afterwards obtained employment as a reporter with the "Shanghai Times". He remained there only for a short time owing to his weakness for liquor. During 1925 and 1926 he was employed in the Commercial Office of the United States Consulate, but lost this position through heavy drinking. He was then unemployed until 1928 when he was appointed local manager of Matheson & Robinson Inc., American Manufacturing Chemists. After leaving this firm, Surtill has been at various times employed with the Shanghai Evening Post and the Mercury Press. Surtill, who is married, is now, at present residing at the Shanghai Lodge Hotel, No. 10, Bund Road (O.C.S.).

Very respectfully,

[Signature]

Consulate-General

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

Special Branch 4413

Date: January 17, 1933.

Subject (in full) Enquiry re: A.H. Guptil.

Made by and Forwarded by D.S.I. Moore.

Reference attached memorandum from the Netherlands Consulate-General. The person in question is Albert M. Guptil an American subject, who describes himself as a Free-lance Journalist. He arrived in Shanghai sometime in 1924 and obtained employment as a reporter with the "Shanghai Times", his services being terminated after a short while owing to his weakness for liquor. During 1925 and 1926 he was employed in the Commercial Office, United States Consulate, in a clerical capacity, his drinking habits putting a stop to this position, and for while he was unemployed. During 1928 Guptil was appointed local manager for McKesson & Robbins Inc., America Manufacturing Chemists, but his drinking bouts again terminated this appointment, and since, other short-lived periods of employment have been with the Shanghai Evening Post, and the Mercury Press.

He is heavily in debt, and is at present staying at the Chin Loong Hotel, (金龍亭) off Woosung Road (O.O.L.).


D. S. I.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

SUGGESTION FOR CO-OPERATION BETWEEN S.M.C. AND CHINESE AREAS

By A. M. GUPTIL

Indications are pointing to an understanding being reached between the authorities of Greater Shanghai and the Shanghai Telephone Company, with sanction of the Shanghai Municipal Council, over the disputed matter of telephone service upon municipal council owned roads located outside the limits of the International Settlement and in Chapei areas adjoining those roads. Further indications point to some sort of a working agreement being on the point of culmination with respect to police authority upon these disputed highways, at present a veritable no-man's land with Chinese and foreign controlled police organizations both functioning but imperfectly upon them with residents thereon dissatisfied and neither party to the dispute quite sure of itself.

With these longstanding arguments almost settled, it now seems opportune to revive a suggestion made as far back as 1923 by a distinguished member of the Consular Body, a suggestion which if carried to its logical conclusion eventually would settle the question of the future status of Shanghai to the satisfaction of everyone concerned, a program which could not help but remove the age old causes of friction between the foreign controlled areas and adjacent Chinese administered districts all of which go to comprise the real Greater Shanghai.

Radical Change Of Policy Advocated

It was in the summer of 1923 that the consular official whose name cannot yet be disclosed granted an interview in which he inspired a magazine article wherein was advocated a then radical change of policy on the part of the administrations of the two foreign controlled areas at Shanghai. As he pointed out at the time, and is still pertinent, the underlying cause of Chapei's backwardness as compared with the development of the International Settlement and the French Concession is lack of adequate revenue. It is all very well for the prideful foreigner to invite an odious comparison between his well kept municipalities and the shabby Chinese administered areas adjacent thereto. But is it fair for the foreigner to make this comparison? At least one important foreign official believes not. And why?

In the first place, due to a whim of nature, aided and abetted by foreign controlled customs and conservancy services, the bulk of Shanghai's trade has to pass through the International Settlement. Artificial stimulants, the greatest of them being a sense of security within the bounds of the settlement, have packed that area with business houses and offices. Land values have appreciated to a remarkable extent as compared with those prevailing in Chapei and other Chinese districts and revenues have kept pace. The result has been that where the Shanghai Municipal Council might find a million dollars to spend on road work, the authorities in Chapei, for instance, might be hard put to raise ten thousand for similar purposes.

It was proposed in 1923 that this discrepancy in taxable values be recognized by the governments of the French Concession and the International Settlement. It was further suggested that the two councils make a flat admission of the essential indivisibility of the Chinese and foreign areas which together comprise Greater Shanghai. And it was stated to be a bounden duty on the part of the foreign councils to recognize their financial responsibilities with regard to their Chinese neighbors and arrange in the most convenient and equitable manner possible to attain for a substantial admission of that responsibility in the form of financial support to the Chinese administered section of Greater Shanghai.

Not so far fetched as it seems at first glance is this proposal. Rather than being the idea of a flighty visionary is it the result of years of close study on the part of a particularly hard headed individual whose business it is to deal in facts and whom emotion sways not all. So let us see what is proposed as a program of progress for this metropolis. It is simplicity in itself.

A Council Of Mixed Members

Let negotiations be undertaken through the medium of a super Municipal Council, a body with no standing at all in law but composed of members of the councils of the several areas involved. Let this body promise its deliberations and recommendations to its respective legal

(Continued on Page 255)

SUGGESTION FOR CO-OPERATION

(Continued from Page 149)

bodies upon the assumption that for many years to come the Chinese districts of Shanghai will not be self supporting in the event of attempts being made to force their development along modern lines to equal or at least to approximate the progress shown by the concession and the settlement. Let this body admit in public, once and for all that Shanghai is more than two settlements and a Chinese slum district. Let it admit the necessity of Chapei and Nantao to the settlements as the latter are to the Chinese areas and let the councils interested admit their joint responsibility for the preservation of order, public health and the furtherance of public works. In short, let the foreigners evidence a desire to aid in the development of this port as a whole, rather than in the piecemeal manner of the past. Let the foreign councils apportion a definite percentage of their revenues to be expended upon public works, public health, police and the like in the Chinese areas. It would be an investment well worth making in terms of dollars and cents for one suspects that once the Chinese residents and authorities became convinced of the sincerity and permanence of such an arrangement, right then and there would the greater part of present anti-foreign sentiment disappear. For it is Chinese money that has built and is keeping the concession and the settlement. When some of it is spent in Chinese territory, Chinese sentiment will change.

And, it was asked in the interview referred to, why not arrange an exchange of concession and settlement officers with the Chinese areas, as liason officers probably, to promote a better understanding between these bodies. It is more than probable that in some instances the foreign administrations would benefit by the experience of officials in the Chinese districts. It is likewise possible that a Chinese administration would welcome the assistance and advice of foreign municipal officers upon their problems, while the human side of the matter, the engendering of better feeling between the administrative bodies concerned would be the greatest of incentives to such an arrangement.

Why not push forward development of a real Greater Shanghai. Why not tackle the problem in a spirit of get together, with determination to make Shanghai the real metropolis of the Orient, a great, modern commercial center with every interest accepting its responsibility toward the whole, bearing its share of the burden in common with its fellow rather than working at cross purposes as is all too often the case at present? The telephones and the roads out of the way, the real opportunity for constructive statesmanship invites thought and action.

Form No. 1
G. H. H. H. H.

Shanghai Municipal Police.

O. I. D.
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I. O. CENTRAL

Station.

January 31

1925

REPORT ON Search for Albert M. Guptil by request of
American Consular Authorities.

Made by D. I. Sullivan

Forwarded by

W. Givens S. I.

Sir,

Albert M. Guptil employed in the commercial office of the American Consulate who has been missing for the past three days, went into the General Hospital at 6 p.m. January 30. He is in a first class ward and is being attended by Dr. Bryson. I gathered from the demeanour of the office sister from whom I made inquiries that Guptil has entered the hospital to cover up his indiscretions. Mr. Jacobs has been notified of Guptil's whereabouts.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. Sullivan

D. I.

D. C. I.